

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
NATCHITOCHEs LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**May 8, 2012**

**7:00 p.m.**

BE IT KNOWN that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Natchitoches Levee and Drainage District was called in the Police Jury Meeting Room, Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Natchitoches, Louisiana, on May 8, 2012, with a quorum being present, and roll was called as follows, to-wit:

Board Members present were:

Karlton Methvin, President/Administrator  
Janet Jones, Secretary  
Doris Rogé, Member  
Mark Swafford, Member  
Adolph Sklar, Jr. Member  
Charles Brazzel, Jr., Member  
Billy Giddens, Member

Absent were:

Rayburn Smith, Member

Also present were:

Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer  
Robert Vercher, Maintenance Superintendent  
Billy Dunn, Employee

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m by the President, Karlton Methvin. In accordance with the Public Notice, a Public Hearing was held to discuss the proposal to roll the adjusted millage rate forward to the maximum authorized rate. Following a discussion during the Public Hearing President Methvin called to order the regular meeting of the Board of Directors for the Natchitoches Levee & Drainage District. The minutes of the April, 2012 meeting were read and discussed. A motion was made by Mark Swafford, seconded by Billy Giddens, to approve the April, 2012 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The April, 2012 financial statement had not been completed by the accountant, and the Board agreed unanimously to place the

April financial statement on the agenda for discussion at the June meeting.

Robert Vercher addressed the board and advised that his crew had just recently finished bushhogging the Clarence levee. He noted that they were having to haul dirt to fill in cow trails along the levee. He further advised that they were unable to get the dozer across Roger Collum's driveway for fear that they would break the concrete in the driveway. Following discussion by the members of the Board it was suggested that they put rubber tires on the ground and walk the dozer across the tires.

Mr. Vercher pointed out that the Levee Board continues to buy dirt to fill in cow trails. These trails are being made by the cows owned by individuals and perhaps it would be appropriate to contact the landowners and request them to pay for the dirt that is being used to fill in the trails, or at least provide the dirt from their adjoining property. The Board discussed the issue, but did not make any decision.

Mr. Vercher further advised that he had been to look at a ditch on Mr. Moreau's land below Cloutierville. He had received a complaint from Mr. Bayonne that his property was flooding because of water that was backing up from the L-12 Channel where it crosses the Moreau property. Mr. Vercher had inspected the area but it was under water and therefore difficult to determine exactly what the problem was, although it was surmised that the culvert in the ditch may be too small. The Board requested Brad Sticker, DOTD Engineer, to inspect the area at his earliest opportunity.

The DOTD report was given by Brad Sticker. He advised that the Corps had completed its periodic inspection on the Natchitoches side. Apparently, they found a lot of animal burrows. There were a couple of places where there is overhanging vegetation that the Corps felt should be cut. He noted that the Hampton flood gates would still be an issue in the Corps' report and the report will also show more power lines within 40' of the levee than in earlier reports. He also noted that there was still no resolution of the gas lines that cross the levee. He is still waiting for a final decision from the Corps of Engineers with respect to one line that does not meet their specs.

He also advised that he had looked that morning at the area where the levee is missing at Campti. For years, the Corps of

Engineers has approved this area, noting that the high bank is in itself a sufficient levee. He indicated he had talked with David Dupré and he was going to try to get it approved again, but apparently there is a new higher up with the Corps who is of the opinion the levee should be replaced in this area. Finally, he advised that he had recently talked with the attorney in Alexandria about his request to run power lines to his camp and reminded him of all of the necessary requirements.

In other business, Doris Rogé reported on her attendance at the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana meeting recently held in Baton Rouge. The hot topic of conversation was to amend last year's legislation so as to return the right of way from 6' from the toe of the levee to 15' from the toe of the levee. The Board discussed the various ramifications of this law. In the past several years we have required a number of landowners to remove obstructions within 6' from the toe of the levee. If we now come back to these same landowners telling them they need to move their fences to 15' of the toe of the levee they are certainly going to be unhappy to say the least.

The Board reviewed the Periodic Performance Report relative to Robert Vercher. A motion was made by Adolph Sklar and seconded by Mark Swafford to approve the Periodic Performance Report as written. This motion passed unanimously.

The Board then discussed Resolution No. 1 which was a resolution to adopt the adjusted millage rate. This resolution was made by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Doris Rogé to adopt Resolution No. 1. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was then made by C. C. D. Brazzel, Jr. and seconded by Janet Jones to roll forward the millage rate to the maximum authorized rate. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to add to the agenda the issue of adding rock to the levee on Miller Farm Road. The motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously. Following further discussion, a motion was made by Adolph Sklar, Jr. and seconded by C. D. Brazzel, Jr. to authorize Robert Vercher to purchase additional rock for Miller Farm Road, not to exceed four loads. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Board, a motion was made by Janet Jones, seconded by Mark Swafford, to adjourn. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Approved on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012, at Natchitoches,  
Louisiana, at a regularly held meeting.

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**RONALD E. CORKERN, JR.,**  
Attorney/Assistant Secretary